

Message Text

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SUBJ: BIOGRAPHIC DATA: FRG AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL KLAUS SCHUETZ

SUMMARY: NEW WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL KLAUS SCHUETZ HAS HAD LONG, CLOSE AND VERY FRIENDLY CONTACT WITH US GOVERNMENT AS GOVERNING MAYOR OF WEST BERLIN. HE HAS EXCELLENT REPUTATION IN WEST BERLIN JEWISH COMMUNITY, IS WELL DISPOSED TOWARDS ISRAEL AND IS, WE UNDERSTAND, WELL THOUGHT OF THERE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE NEW FRG AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL, AND FORMER GOVERNING MAYOR OF WEST BERLIN KLAUS SCHUETZ WAS BORN SEPTEMBER 16, 1926 IN HEIDELBERG. HE SERVED IN THE GERMAN ARMY DURING WORLD WAR II AND WAS SEVERALY WOUNDED IN ITALY. AS A RESULT HIS RIGHT ARM IS PARALYZED; HE SHAKES HANDS WITH HIS LEFT RPT LEFT.

2. AFTER THE WAR HE STUDIED GERMAN PHILOSOPHY, HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE IN BERLIN, FIRST AT THE HYMBOLDT UNIVERSITY AND SUBSEQUENTLY AT THE FREE UNIVERSITY OF WEST BERLIN. HE ALSO STUDIED ON A SCHOLARSHIP AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY. SUBSEQUENTLY HE BECAME A TEACHING ASSISTANT
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AT THE INSTITUTE FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE AT THE FREE UNIVERSITY. DURING HIS YEARS OF STUDY HE BECAME PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN POLITICS AND OBSERVED FIRST HAND ELECTORAL CAMPAIGNS IN ENGLAND AND THE UNITED STATES. SUBSEQUENTLY, HE PUBLISHED VARIOUS ARTICLES ON THE SUBJECT OF ELECTORAL CAMPAIGNS.

3. SCHUETZ JOINED THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SPD) IN

1945, WAS ELECTED A MEMBER OF THE BERLIN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 1954), AND MEMBER OF THE GERMAN BUNDESTAG IN 1957. BY THAT TIME HE HAD BECOME A MEMBER OF THE INNER CIRCLE AROUND WEST BERLIN'S THEN GOVERNING MAYOR WILLY BRANDT. IN 1961 SCHUETZ WAS NAMED BRANDT'S CAMPAIGN MANAGER FOR THE BUNDESTAG ELECTIONS. IN DECEMBER 1961 HE WAS SELECTED AS WEST BERLIN SENATOR (I.E. MINISTER) FOR FEDERAL AFFAIRS. IN THE FALL OF 1966 WHEN THE SPD ENTERED INTO A GRAND COALITION GOVERNMENT WITH THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC UNION (CDU) IN BONN SCHUETZ TOOK OVER THE POSITION OF STATE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN THE WEST GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTRY. IN OCTOBER 1967 FOLLOWING THE FORCED RETIREMENT OF THE INCUMBENT MAYOR ALBERTZ, SCHUETZ WAS SELECTED AS WEST BERLIN(S GOVERNING MAYOR.

4. ALTHOUGH HE NEVER EXPERIENCED GREAT SUCCESS AS A COMMUNAL POLITICIAN, AND WAS NEVER ABLE TO OBTAIN THE INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION OF HIS PREDECESSORS (BRANDT AND ERNST REUTER), SCHUETZ REMAINED IN OFFICE FOR OVER TEN YEARS, LONGER THAN ANY OTHER POST-WAR GOVERNING MAYOR OF WEST BERLIN. ULTIMATELY SCHUETZ' OWN INABILITY TO HOLD A TIGHT REIN OVER THE CITY'S ADMINISTRATION AND A SERIES OF POLITICAL MISJUDGEMENTS AND SCANDALS INVOLVING SEVERAL OF HIS ASSOCIATES LED THE BERLIN SPD TO FORCE SCHUETZ TO RESIGN IN APRIL 1977. ALTHOUGH MANY POLITICAL OBSERVERS FEEL SCHUETZ WAS AT LEAST PARTIALLY TO BLAME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR THE VARIOUS PROBLEMS WHICH LED TO HIS POLITICAL DOWNFALL, AT NO TIME WAS HIS PERSONAL HONESTY, INTEGRITY OR DEVOTION TO THE WELL BEING OF WEST BERLIN EVER QUESTIONED. AS A STATEMAN HE CONTINUES TO BE HELD IN HIGH ESTEEM BY A LARGE NUMBER OF HIS OWN FELLOW CITIZENS AND BY NUMEROUS FOREIGN DIGNITARIES AS WELL.

5. DURING HIS LONG TENURE AS GOVERNING MAYOR, SCHUETZ RARELY FOCUSED ON LOCAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS; HIS MAIN INTEREST HAS ALWAYS BEEN IN THE REALM OF FOREIGN POLICY. INDEED ONE OF SCHUETZ' "SECRET DREAMS" HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO BE ASSIGNED TO A TOP POLICY POSITION IN THE FRG FOREIGN OFFICE. HIS DESIGNATION AS FRG AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL THUS ACCORDS IN SOME MEASURE WITH HIS PERSONAL INTEREST. THE ASSIGNMENT IS ALSO VERY MUCH IN HARMONY WITH HIS PERSONAL SYMPATHIES WITH ISRAEL AND FOR THE WORLD JEWISH COMMUNITY IN GENERAL. IN WEST BERLIN HE IS KNOWN AS ONE OF THE GREATEST PATRONS AND GENUINELY CLOSE FRIENDS OF THE CITY'S JEWISH COMMUNITY. BECAUSE OF HIS WELL KNOWN VIEWS SCHUETZ HAS BEEN ATTACKED REPEATEDLY BY PRO-ARAB GROUPS.

6. DUE TO THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE THREE

WESTERN ALLIES AND THE BERLIN GOVERNMENT, AND TO HIS LONG
TENURE AS GOVERNING MAYOR KLAUS SCHUETZ HAS DEVELOPED AN
INTIMATE AND EXTREMELY FRIENDLY WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH
A WHOLE GENERATION OF AMERICAN OFFICIALS WHO HAVE BEEN
ASSIGNED TO BERLIN AND WHO HAVE DEALT WITH ITS PROBLEMS.
HE UNDERSTANDS THE UNITED STATES AND ITS POLITICAL
PROCESSES EXTREMELY WELL AND IS A STRONG SUPPORTER OF
OUR POLICIES AROUND THE WORLD. BOTH SCHUETZ AND HIS WIFE
ADELHEID (HEIDI) SPEAK ENGLISH.GEORGE

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